

From: Tom Loveman
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/21/01 6:53pm
Subject: Fox guarding the hen house

Dear DOJ,

I am writing to express my deep personal displeasure with the proposed settlement of the Microsoft anti-trust case.

The provisions in the consent decree amount to letting the fox (Microsoft) guard the hen house. Practically every provision provides an out for Microsoft should they not like the way a particular situation effects them.

Time and time again, I have watched Microsoft yield it's monopoly to crush their competition, by either purchasing companies who over more innovation, or giving away their crapware free to destroy the fledging start-ups.

I honestly believe that had Microsoft not been allowed to cut such a wide swath across the technology industry there would be more companies with a wider array of products - all competing and therefore yielding better products. Microsoft has not help technology expansion - it's monopoly lets them charge whatever they want and there for makes technology more expensive for everyone. They have yet to show that any of their products released actually was worth the price they asked.

The settlement does nothing more than reward Microsoft for it's behavior by giving them the go ahead to continue these practices legally. They've crushed countless hopes and dreams, hampered innovation (save for Apple Computer from which Microsoft steals every idea), and profited from a strangle hold on technology.

Regardless of current economics or changes in the competitive environment, Microsoft should pay for their indiscretion, possibly be broken up, and face stiff penalties should they revisit their illegal practices.

I hope you seriously consider letting this fox off the hook.

Sincerely,

Tom Loveman

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